



TANGANYIKA TERRITORY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Annual Report

1940



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ANNUAL REPORT 1940

GENERAL

Weather conditions in all areas were favourable for the production of food crops and satisfactory harvests were reaped. In no district was there a shortage of food. Yields of cotton were adversely affected by unfavourable climatic conditions during the later stages of growth.

Despite the inevitable difficulties imposed by war conditions the year 1940 was on the whole a successful one from the point of view of crop production. The two main adverse factors with which producers were faced were the limitation of markets overseas for certain types of produce due mainly to the closure of all continental markets and the difficulty of obtaining adequate shipping space particularly for sisal.

The total value of the chief agricultural products exported was £3,410,711 compared with £2,984,761 in the previous year and £2,816,225 in 1938. The average value per ton f.o.b. of the commodities included in the above total was £22/7/6d. or £4/9/0d. per ton greater than in 1939. Record quantities of rice, tea, sugar, pyrethrum and ghee were exported.

NOTES ON THE CHIEF EXPORT CROPS

Sisal.—Total production during 1940 amounted to 101,810 tons which compares favourably with an output of 103,248 tons in 1939. Due to difficulties in obtaining shipping space exports amounted to only 78,528 tons valued at £1,499,849 (1939: 93,110 tons valued at £1,223,477) and at the close of the year unshipped stocks totalled 46,566 tons compared with a normal stock of 13,000 tons.

For the greater part of the year sisal exports were subject to a degree of control necessary to ensure that the war-time requirements of the United Kingdom and France amounting to 80,000 tons per annum were satisfied and received priority in fulfilment. Otherwise no further limitations were placed on the industry beyond certain price stipulations. Later in the year in consequence of the invasion of Western Europe and the collapse of France which resulted in the disappearance of some of the principal outlets for East African sisal, it became necessary to introduce a measure of restriction on output for it became manifest that production, with such restricted markets, was greatly outstripping sales and continuation on these lines for any length of time would inevitably bring about chaos and collapse to the industry. After negotiations between the industry in East Africa, the Sisal Growers' Association in London and the United Kingdom authorities, His Majesty's Government agreed to guarantee a market for 100,000 tons of East African sisal during the year 1940-41 at a controlled price and the industry in East Africa agreed to restrict output by one-third to conform with the smaller demand. The restriction scheme came into operation on the 1st November and gives a permitted production for the Territory of 76,570 tons for the year 1st November, 1940, to the 31st October, 1941, the quota being allocated to producing estates

by the Sisal Controller on a formula, based on past production figures, recommended by the local Sisal Growers' Association. Contracts made prior to the date of commencement of restriction and not filled at that date are additional to the above figure of 76,570 tons. There was no change in the prices fixed in 1939 for the various grades, the United Kingdom c.i.f. price for No. 1 grade remaining at £26 per ton.

Enemy estates remained in production throughout the year, leases to approved lessees were towards the end of the year changed from an annual basis to one of five years mainly to ensure the proper maintenance of these properties.

It can be recorded that despite the manifold difficulties arising from the war the sisal industry remains intact, a circumstance of considerable import in view of the large part the production of this crop plays in the economic structure of the Territory. The uncertainties of the future and the difficulties of obtaining essential items of equipment have not, as might have been expected, resulted in any relaxation of effort to improve production methods and the standard of upkeep of plantations has shown no retrograde tendency such as was noticeable after the economic depression.

Throughout the year the work of sisal control has been in the hands of Major Sir William Lead, K.C.M.G., M.C., the Sisal Controller for East Africa, and it is due to his untiring efforts and those of the local and London Sisal Associations together with the willing co-operation of producers that the industry has been able to overcome with the minimum of disorganization the numerous difficulties imposed by war-time conditions.

Coffee.—Exports of coffee during 1940 amounted to 15,634 tons valued at £440,903 compared with an export of 16,599 tons valued at £466,026 in 1939. Production in Bukoba where the crop totalled 7,787 tons was lower than the previous year by 3,000 tons while from the Northern and Tanga provinces production increased by some 1,800 tons. For the third year in succession the Northern Province native coffee crop has been a record one, the Kilimanjaro crop approximating 4,000 tons of parchment or the equivalent of five cwts of parchment coffee per acre. For non-native coffee growers the year has been an extremely difficult one. The absence in many cases of owners or managers on military service placed a heavy burden of responsibility on the wives who have remained to manage the plantations while increased costs of production have had to be incurred at a time of low prices and uncertain markets. At the end of the year out of a total crop of plantation coffee in the Northern Province of 2,630 tons (clean) only approximately 1,000 tons had been sold. It should be noted, however, that at the time of writing this report (March, 1941) markets had been found for the whole of the crop. From the 1st July the department ceased to operate the Moshi Coffee Curing Works which was then leased from the Custodian of Enemy Property by the Tanganyika Coffee Growers' Association, a body which, as in past years, has done much to assist the organized development of the non-native coffee industry in the Territory.

Cotton.—Exports amounted to the equivalent of 59,494 bales valued at £604,226. This compares not unfavourably with the 1939 export figure of 65,145 bales valued at £557,358. There was an abnormally large tonnage awaiting shipment at the end of the year so that production for the season was greater than export figures indicate. Throughout the cotton growing areas of the Territory increased acreages were planted to cotton in response to Government's call for maximum production and had it not been for unfavour-

able weather conditions coupled, in the Lake Province, with severe incidence of Jassid the output of this crop would have been considerably in excess of the production actually achieved. In the Lake Province the crop reached 40,000 bales, the second largest crop recorded from the province. Practically the whole of the first quality (37,000 bales) was marketed in the first three weeks of the buying season at a price to the grower of eight cents per pound, the balance being marketed at seven cents per pound with third quality at one cent per pound. In the Eastern Province while production in Bagamoyo, Morogoro and Ulanga districts approximated that of the previous season and Rufiji district showed a considerable expansion, the output of Kilosa district decreased by some 3,000 bales. The whole of the province suffered from unfavourable weather and it is to be regretted that this uncontrollable factor nullified to a considerable extent the very real efforts made by all concerned. Production in the Southern Province totalled 1,200 bales an increase of 400 bales over the output for 1939. In the Northern and Tanga provinces although non-native production decreased total output exceeded 7,000 bales, an increase of 2,500 bales over the previous season, the increase was particularly noticeable in the Moshi district.

Two redundant ginneries were resited during the year. Ruvu ginnery was transferred to Uzinza to serve the area which during recent years has been opened up for settlement while permission was given for the transfer of Runere ginnery to a site in Maswa district. The transfer of Ruvu was completed during the year and the new ginnery at Buchosa worked during the season. The transfer of Runere ginnery will be completed in 1941.

The new cotton selections "Mwanza 561" and "Mwanza 457" which were grown in bulk multiplication for the first time in selected areas of the Lake Province showed very promising results. These cottons, though of considerably higher yielding capacity and improved quality than the local strain, are not sufficiently resistant to Jassid and it is on this side of cotton breeding work in particular that increased attention is now being paid by the officers of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation seconded to the department, for until such a resistant strain is evolved the Lake Province crop, if the season is unfavourable, is at the mercy of attacks from this pest.

Groundnuts.—An improvement in production can be recorded. Exports totalled 8,185 tons valued at £97,094 which is one hundred per cent increase over the figures for the years 1938 and 1939 but which falls far short of the output in 1936 and 1937 when over 22,000 tons were exported annually. During 1940 the markets for oilseeds overseas became extremely restricted primarily on account of the closure of all continental markets and the limitation of purchase by the United Kingdom. In June it was estimated that over 14,000 tons were available for export but sales were effected only with difficulty and had it not been for a purchase by the Ministry of Food of approximately 6,000 tons exports would have fallen far short of the figure indicated.

Sesame.—Italy's entry into the war at the time when the Southern Province sesame crop was being harvested, meaning as it did the loss of normal markets to the north, resulted in greatly decreased exports which totalled 2,052 tons valued at £22,241 compared with a normal annual export of 4,000 to 5,000 tons.

Copra.—As with groundnuts and sesame overseas markets for Tanganyika copra have, on account of war conditions, to a great extent ceased to exist. Exports totalled 3,095 tons valued at £25,496 compared with 6,378 tons in 1939. The shortfall in copra exports was, however, offset by the increase in

exports of coconut oil which amounted to 2,221 tons compared with 974 tons in 1939 (equivalent to 3,700 tons and 1,620 tons respectively of copra).

Grains.—The efforts made, as part of the increased production campaign, to obtain a greatly increased production of rice particularly in the Lake and Western provinces met with satisfactory results. Weather conditions were particularly favourable and 20,000 tons of rice paddy were marketed in the Lake Province alone. Exports amounted to 15,204 tons of rice valued at £156,006, this quantity is over 5,000 tons more than the previous record export of 9,901 tons in 1939. This production was of particular value as heavy demands for Tanganyika rice were made by the military forces in East Africa for supply during 1940 and the first six months of 1941. Exports of sorghums and millets totalled 4,510 tons and maize 468 tons. Exports of wheat totalled 1,450 tons all being railed to Kenya for milling. In the Northern Province the area planted was well in advance of previous years but a severe and almost universal outbreak of stem rust considerably reduced yields and in this area the crop sold declined by some twenty per cent and did not exceed 15,000 bags.

Tea.—Total production of made tea amounted to 835,134 pounds of which 707,840 pounds were exported. The comparative figures for 1939 were 582,538 pounds and 436,352 pounds respectively. All tea exported to the United Kingdom was sold under contract to the Ministry of Food. In the Southern Highlands Province the season was a poor one owing to the absence of rain from June to November.

Sugar.—Exports amounted to 4,876 tons valued at £48,359.

Tobacco.—In the Songea district where production of fire-cured leaf is in the hands of over ten thousand native growers the crop amounted to 440 tons. A comprehensive report on the organization and the future development of this industry was prepared during the year by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and an officer of the department. Non-native production of flue-cured tobacco in Iringa district made satisfactory progress the crop increasing from 34,000 pounds in 1939 to 66,100 pounds. There is considerable room for improvement in the grading of this crop and proposals to this end were under consideration at the end of the year.

Pyrethrum.—Exports in 1940 amounted to 244 tons (1939 : 106 tons) valued at £28,539. The season was an unfavourable one for this crop. In the Oldonyo Sambu area of the Northern Province there has been a considerable expansion of production.

Other crops and products.—The production of papain has attracted considerable interest among planters in the Northern Province where new areas are being planted up. Exports amounted to 18 tons valued at £12,339. Exports of beeswax totalled 468 tons valued at £64,620, of gums (copal and arabic) 965 tons valued at £25,389 and of ghee 1,213 tons valued at £81,241.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Insect pests.—The usual cotton pests : American bollworm, stainers and, in certain areas, pink bollworm were present but damage was not unduly pronounced. Damage to cotton by Jassid in the Lake Province was, however, serious in its incidence and it has been estimated that twenty per cent of the crop or the equivalent of ten thousand bales was lost through the damage caused by this insect. The coffee white stem borer is gaining a firmer hold of the southern coffee areas of Bukoba district and the lower lying coffee in Bugufi. Banana weevil, a most destructive pest, was reported in 1940 from

an island at the entrance to the Emin Pasha Gulf in Mwanza district and was subsequently found to exist on the Bukoba-Uganda border north of the Kagera river. Action to prevent the spread of this pest has been taken.

Plant diseases.—A severe and widespread outbreak of stem rust of wheat in the wheat growing areas of the Northern Province seriously reduced the output of this crop.

FOOD AND EXPORT CONTROL

Until October all work in connection with Food Control was undertaken by the department. After that date, and following the establishment of the East African War Supplies Board, the work was sub-divided, food of plant origin remaining under the control of the Director of Agriculture under the designation of Food (Plant Products) Controller, control of food of animal origin being undertaken by an officer of another department who was appointed Food (Animal Products) Controller.

Control of supplies, distribution and prices remained in essentials unchanged throughout the year and with one or two minor exceptions, and then only for limited periods, there were in the Territory throughout the year adequate supplies of all essential foodstuffs.

The work of control of exports of all commodities (except sisal) produced in the Territory has for administrative convenience remained in the hands of the Food Controller (more recently the Food (Plant Products) Controller). Control is effected under the provisions of the Export Restriction Orders of 1939 to which no material amendments were made during 1940. The virtual closure of all continental markets which took place during the year has considerably reduced the work of this branch of the department.

Towards the end of the year increased demands were made by the military forces in East Africa for large quantities of rice, onions and potatoes from this Territory. The necessary arrangements were made for the distribution of available supplies as between the military and the civilian population, for the supply to the military of their rice requirements and for the growing during 1941 of increased quantities of those crops required by the forces to permit of military requirements being supplied during 1941 without unduly curtailing the quantities of such crops available for civilian consumption. As an example three tons of onion seed were distributed in the Northern and Tanga provinces.

COTTON CONTROL

In the Lake Province owing to fears entertained by ginners and exporters particularly in connection with war risks on cotton in transit in the Territory it became necessary for Government to undertake the purchase of the Lake Province cotton crop from ginners f.o.r. ginners' stations. The Director of Agriculture was appointed Cotton Controller under Defence Regulations and the necessary order was made controlling the movement and sale of the crop. The measure worked satisfactorily.

In areas of the Territory other than the Lake Province the cotton crop was marketed in the normal manner except that, at the request of the ginners, Government instituted an insurance scheme to cover, against enemy action, seed cotton from the time of receipt in the ginnery and lint cotton from production in the ginnery until placed in the ship at the port of export. The premium for this insurance was paid partly by the grower by an adjustment of the minimum price formula and partly by the ginner and was collected at the time of export of the lint by an addition to the existing export tax.

COFFEE CONTROL

In July Government was advised that the Ministry of Food were proposing to cease issuing licences for the importation of coffee into the United Kingdom for the reason that stocks of coffee in the United Kingdom were the equivalent of two and a half years consumption and in view of the necessity of conserving shipping space. This advice led to the introduction of a scheme of coffee control in Kenya and following discussions at the East African Economic Council it was agreed that in the interests of East Africa as a whole some measure of control should be established in Tanganyika and in Uganda to eliminate abnormal competitive and cut-throat competition in the disposal of the crop and to obtain a measure of price regulation for equivalent qualities from the East African territories. The total prohibition on importation proposed was not, however, put into effect and the Ministry of Food granted to East Africa a quota of 7,500 tons for which import licences would be granted during the second year of the war. In November further advice was received that owing to shipping difficulties it had been necessary to suspend the issue of import licences for importation of coffee into the United Kingdom so that, in effect, it was not possible for East Africa to take advantage of the quota granted.

Coffee control in Tanganyika is governed by the provisions of the Defence (Coffee Control Board) Regulations, 1940, which establishes a control board and the Coffee Control (Sales) Order, 1940. The measure of control exercised was limited to maintaining close touch through a liaison officer in Nairobi with the Kenya Control Authorities to ensure that there was no drastic undercutting of selling prices to the detriment of the producer in either territory and to administer the Tanganyika portion of the East African United Kingdom import quota. The marketing of the crop remained in the hands of the normal trade channels. All sales made other than through the agency of the Tanganyika Coffee Growers' Association or the Kilimanjaro Native Co-operative Union have to receive the approval of the Control Board to ensure the maintenance of the measure of price control indicated above.

SOIL CONSERVATION

North-western Circle.—Considerable progress continues to be made on lines detailed in previous annual reports. The measures include the afforestation and reserve of forest areas, the demarcation and control of grazing reserves, contour ridging, hedging and contour banking, gully erosion control, the provision of additional water supplies in the form of tank dams and the use of cattle manure on arable land.

North-eastern Circle.—The extension of control measures to prevent erosion continued during the year but there is still much to be done in all areas. The posting of an officer to the Mbulu highlands should permit of greater progress being made in this area than was possible in the past.

South-western Circle.—The vast programme of soil erosion prevention, soil rehabilitation and correct land usage was continued in the Central Province. The schemes include the Dodoma controlled area, the Msamala reclamation scheme, the Myumi, Handali, Makwanga and Matumbulu reclamation areas, various large rotational grazing areas and the encouragement of ridge cultivation. In addition a start has been made in the badly eroded Kondoa areas and nearly sixty-thousand-man-days were used in Singida on anti-erosion work in five main areas.

South-eastern Circle.—Anti-erosion demonstration and propaganda work was continued particularly in the hill areas of Morogoro and Kilosa districts. It is reported that in certain areas native cultivators are beginning to realize the benefits to be derived from the simple soil conservation measures which in the past they have been encouraged to adopt.

EXPERIMENTAL WORK

The Sisal Experiment Station, Mlingano.—It was possible to maintain uninterrupted the activities of the station throughout the year. It is not possible in this brief report to comment on the progress made during the year in the various investigations and trials established but full details will be found in the annual report of the station which will be published as a departmental pamphlet.

The Coffee Research and Experiment Station, Lyamungu.—The demand for man power due to the war has of necessity curtailed the activities of this station. In June further officers were released for military service leaving only two of the European staff to maintain the work but every effort is being made to avoid dislocation of work on the more important field experiments both on and off the station. The annual report of Lyamungu will be published as a departmental pamphlet.

Work at the other experiment stations of the department: Ukiriguru, Nyamahona, Lubaga, Tumbi, Mwanhala, Morogoro, Kingolwira and Iheme, has continued uninterrupted throughout the year and full details of the progress made are on record. The loan to this Government of four officers of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, which is most gratefully acknowledged, has made possible the continuation of work at the cotton stations in both the Lake and the Eastern provinces.

PUBLICATIONS

The following were published during the year :—

Pamphlet No. 23. "Beeswax," by W. V. Harris, Entomologist.

Leaflet No. 11 (Revised edition). "Notes on Pyrethrum in the Southern Highlands," by C. J. McGregor, Senior Agricultural Officer.

Ten articles were submitted to the *East African Agricultural Journal* for publication and one article to *Tanganyika Notes and Records*.

The publication of the quarterly notes of the Sisal Experiment Station was continued throughout the year. Owing to depletion of staff at Lyamungu the issue of the quarterly notes of the Coffee Research Station was discontinued after the first quarter.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Ordinances.

- (1) The Sale of Wheat Ordinance, 1940.
- (2) The Tea (Amendment) Ordinance, 1940.
- (3) The Cotton (Amendment) Ordinance, 1940.
- (4) The War Revenue (Export Tax) Ordinance, 1940.
- (5) The Native Tobacco (Control and Marketing) Ordinance, 1940.

Rules and Orders.

- (1) Produce Export (Bukoba Coffee) Rules, 1940.
- (2) Tea Industry (Cess) Order, 1940.
- (3) Tea Cess Rules, 1940.
- (4) Plant Protection (Coconut) Rules, 1940.
- (5) Sisal Fibre (Cess) Order, 1940.
- (6) Pyrethrum Industry (Board) Order, 1940.
- (7) Sisal Industry (Registration : Penalty) Rules, 1940.
- (8) Cotton (Amendment) Rules, 1940.
- (9) Ginnery Areas Order, 1940.
- (10) Sisal Industry (Registration) (Amendment) Rules, 1940.
- (11) Thirteen orders under the Defence Regulations, 1939.

CONCLUSION

Mr A. J. Wakefield, Director of Agriculture, proceeded on leave in February. In May advice was received that he would not be returning to the Territory having been appointed to the post of Inspector-General of Agriculture for the West Indies. Mr Wakefield served in the department for sixteen years having been appointed a District Agricultural Officer in 1924. His long service in Tanganyika gave him a very real and intensive knowledge of the problems of the Territory and the department greatly regrets the loss of a Director of the ability and enthusiasm of Mr Wakefield who at all times gave whole hearted service to the work of his department and to the welfare of the Territory.

It is with regret that the death has to be recorded of Mr B. E. Eustace, Senior Agricultural Assistant, which occurred in Morogoro on the 13th May, 1940.

At the end of the year seventeen officers had been released for military service and were serving with the armed forces.

For the first five months of the year eight officers were seconded from other departments for work in the field on increased crop production. They gave valuable service. In May when a call was made for the release of officers for military service these officers returned to their substantive departments.

The year 1940 presented many new problems, war conditions greatly enlarged the scope of the work of the department which now include, in addition to the normal work of a department of agriculture, duties connected with food, export, cotton and coffee control, and in addition the organization of the supply of foodstuffs for East African military requirements. Of necessity the department has worked with a depleted staff and I wish to record my very real thanks to all officers who have given of their best throughout the year.

Dar es Salaam,
19th March, 1941

R. W. R. MILLER,
Director of Agriculture

